

In the Claims:

Claims 1-3, 11-14 and 16 are canceled herein. The remaining claims are not amended in this response and have been indicated as allowable..

1. (canceled).

2. (canceled).

3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) A method for preparing ferric citrate comprising:

mixing solid citric acid with a solid ferric salt to form a mixture;

adding alcohol to the mixture; and

filtering the mixture to obtain solid ferric citrate.

5. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, which further comprises drying said solid ferric citrate by heat.

6. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said solid ferric citrate is dried at 30°C to 120°C.

7. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, which further comprises purifying said solid ferric citrate by mixing with alcohol and filtering the mixture one or more times.

8. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, which further comprises drying said solid ferric citrate by heat.

9. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 8, wherein said solid ferric citrate is dried at 30°C to 120°C.

10. (original) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the ferric salt is ferric chloride, ferric sulfate or ferric nitrite.

11. (canceled).

12. (canceled).

13. (canceled).

14. (canceled).

15. (previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the obtained ferric citrate is fixed in molecular structure and contains a definite mean number of water molecules.

16. (canceled).